

**Memorandum of the Meeting  
Regular Study Session/Meeting  
Twenty-Eighth Town Council of Highland  
Monday, May 05, 2014**

The regular study session of the Twenty-Eighth Town Council of the Town of Highland was convened at the regular place, the Highland Municipal, 3333 Ridge Road, Highland, Indiana, in the plenary meeting chambers on **Monday, May 05, 2014** at the time of 7:00 o'clock p.m.

**Silent Roll Call:** Councilors Bernie Zemen, Mark Herak, Dennis Adams, Konnie Kuiper and Dan Vassar were present. A quorum was attained. The Clerk-Treasurer Michael W. Griffin was present to memorialize the proceedings.

**Also present:** John M. Bach, Public Works Director; Peter T. Hojnicky, Metropolitan Police Chief; Steve Mileusnich of the Advisory Board of Zoning Appeals; Randy Bowman, Electrical Inspector and Ed Dabrowski of CBL Consulting - the IT Consultant were present.

Dennis Cobb, P.E. of *First Group Engineering* was present also.

**General Substance of Matters Discussed**

1. The Town Council discussed whether to reschedule or allow the Town Council President to cancel the standing plenary business meeting of Monday, May 26, which is also Memorial Day. It was determined to allow the Town Council President to cancel the meeting pursuant to his authority to do under Section 2.05.130 (C) of the Highland Municipal Code.
2. The Town Council discussed the Improvement Project for the 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Fifth Street Intersection. The Town Council President noted that he had been contacted by a resident on the south side of 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue, who was concerned about the loss of parkway and its effect on his driveway access during snow plowing season.

Dennis Cobb, P.E. of First Group Engineering, Inc., indicated that the current proposed design, which is in the Metropolitan Planning Agency's preliminary list for Federal Highway Funding, calls for equal portions of the needed right of way from the north side and the south side of 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The improvement calls for the addition of a center turn lane.

It was noted that there would be no changes to existing sidewalks. It was further noted that the parkway space of the resident who communicated his concerns to the Town Council President was ten feet, and would be reduced to four feet under the current design. It was suggested by Mr. Cobb that in urban areas, 10 feet of parkway is unusual and that the four feet amount is standard. He noted that this was already public way and would not require any special "taking" by the Town Council.

It was further noted that the current signalization allows traffic to flow in single traffic queues rather than simultaneous north-south flow then simultaneous east-west flow. It was further noted that the current signalization would likely have the effect of reducing left turn accidents but would not reduce the rear-end crashes.

The Metropolitan Police Chief provided traffic accident statistics from the intersection in which he noted that the highest number of accidents were westbound, but he could not distinguish the type of accidents they were.

The discussion noted that in the last three years there had been approximately 30 accidents at the intersection. It was further noted that the accidents were part of the basis in the application for Federal money to fund the improvement.

The discussion explored the affects on *Highland Lock and Key*, 2950 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Highland, a business located at the southwest corner of the intersection of 45<sup>th</sup> and Fifth Street. It was noted that there would be a loss of some parkway, but that parking that currently exists would still be available.

Mr. Cobb suggested that at the present stage in the project development, the Town Council had three options. One option was to abandon the improvement project altogether; a second option was to have the taking of right of way be on the entire south side; and the third option was to proceed with the project as presently designed.

Mr. Cobb noted that the current proposed design would improve access through the driveway of the resident who expressed a concern about the loss of parkway to the Town Council President.

It was determined that the option to utilize the right of way entirely from the south side was undesirable as a meaningful choice. The Town Council discussed whether to proceed with the project as designed or to abandon it altogether.

The Town Council President and Councilor Kuiper expressed opposition to the project and favored abandoning the improvement project.

Councilor Adams and Councilor Zemen agreed to meet the next day to actually inspect the site of the proposed improvement.

It was determined that the Town Council would take the information as presented by Mr. Cobb under further consideration later to advise Mr. Cobb once all the members of the Town Council could deliberate further.

The Public Works Director and Mr. Cobb departed at this time.

3. The Town Council discussed with the Police Chief the status and disposition of the Police Station Construction Project.

The Police Chief departed following the discussion.

4. The Town Council discussed the desirability of taking up the matter of the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement promulgated by Lake County in support of the 911 Dispatch Center Consolidation. It was noted that the Town of Highland combined with St. John, Cedar Lake, and Schererville passing a conditional approval of the agreement, subject to some actions to be taken by the Lake County Commissioners and Council. It was noted that there was a very low likelihood that the County Officials would be acting on the conditions.

The Town Council President then asked that the actual interlocal cooperation agreement presented by Lake County be placed on the agenda for May 12, 2014 for the consideration and action of the Town Council.

5. The Town Council discussed a concern that Councilor Herak regarding residential properties that were not observing the usual standards of care, in terms of lawn care, weed control and like measures. The discussion explored whether a focus in code enforcement could be effectively committed to the issue.

The discussion included a house, which was simply abandoned by its owners owing to an unsatisfied mortgage and foreclosure located in Councilor Adams' neighborhood. The poor condition of the house was noted.

There being no further business necessary or desired to be discussed by the Town Council, the regular study session of the Town Council of **Monday, May 05, 2014**, was adjourned at 7:43 o'clock p.m.

Michael W. Griffin, IAMC/MMC/CPFA/CPFIM/CMO  
Clerk-Treasurer